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January 7, 1960

The Honorable John E. Fogarty
200 Custom House Building
Providence 3, R. I.

Dear Congressman Fogarty:

I want to congratulate you on your continued and successful efforts on behalf of the worthy projects in medical research, which recently received such favorable newspaper publicity.

I was particularly interested to note that an additional sum of more than three hundred thousand dollars was allocated for the project relating to causal and preventive factors in Cerebral Palsy.

As a physician and also as a tax payer, I believe that the public has a right to question what has been accomplished with the large sums of money that have been allocated for this project. From my limited knowledge of the utilization of such funds in the state of Rhode Island, it is my impression that not one single thing has been accomplished over the course of the past few years, other than to provide employment for a few individuals who use the salaries obtained from the project to carry out any personal programs that they may have.

During the past few years, I have written to inquire regarding the accomplishments of the supposed research program, and also to suggest specific and concrete projects that would be useful in meeting the aims outlined in the original grants. In your courteous replies, you have always referred me to the Director of the project, following which nothing further was heard (or done).

As an extension of your very worthy efforts in obtaining funds for these purposes, I assume that you must have some general knowledge of the nature of distribution of funds, and the results accomplished by use of the funds.

I challenge you, therefore, Congressman Fogarty, to inform me of any research accomplishments made with the expenditure of the money available under the current program for Cerebral Palsy research. I challenge you to name a single scientific paper which has resulted from research under the program, or to cite a single piece of new information that has been accumulated under the work of the program, or to describe to me any useful endeavors that are now going on by members of the project.

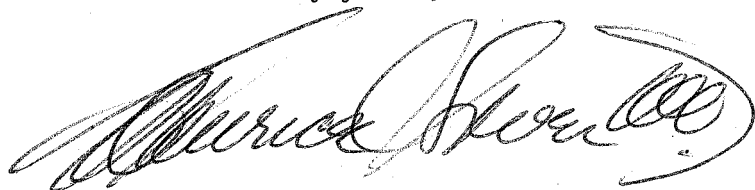
It is one thing to state at the outset, that "some time will be required for organization" and coordination of the work. This is understandable in any undertaking and particularly in one so large and widespread as the Cerebral Palsy project. But, years have gone by, not days or months, and with some personal knowledge and interest in this particular field, I believe that some results should be at hand by now. In the daily newspapers we hear much of the matter of "feather-bedding", "make-work projects", and the general problem of squandering of public funds. All of this, of course, is related to projects outside of the field of medical research.

However, I see no difference between medical research projects and other Government-sponsored projects, and I would not be surprised if some day soon, interest and investigation might not be directed to the matter of disbursement of large amounts of public monies in worthless, poorly constructed, badly directed and totally unyielding research programs in medicine.

It is one thing to work energetically to obtain from a reluctant Congress or public, the contribution of funds which are so necessary for worthwhile medical research. But, if such programs are to remain acceptable to the American public, then we are entitled to know the nature of the disbursement of our research dollars, and the results accomplished by use of those dollars. I think that the public at large is now educated enough so that they cannot readily be fooled by such platitudes as are sometimes offered to the effect that "it takes time" and that "medical research is slow", and that "medical research cannot be rushed".

I should appreciate learning your views in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maurice L. Silver". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end.

Maurice L. Silver, M.D.

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